

**Increase In Prices of Silk**

2518. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is unprecedented increase in the prices of silk;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a large number of silk handloom and powerloom units have already been closed;

(d) if so, the details thereof, Statewise; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). One of the main reasons for the recent increase in the prices of raw silk in the local markets is the outbreak of pebrine disease mainly in the rearing areas of silk producing states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Due to occurrence of the disease, there was a decline in the arrivals of cocoons in the cocoon markets which has ultimately affected the availability as well as prices of raw silk in the country.

(c) and (d). No specific reports in this regard have been received from any of the State Governments.

(e) In order to overcome the situation, the following efforts are being made by the Central Silk Board (CSB) in collaboration with the concerned State Government:

1. Implementation of a mass disinfection programme.
2. Supply of hybrid layings to States.

3. Screening of basic stocks for pebrine

4. Deputation of study teams to conduct survey in Seed Zones and to demonstrate various measures to control pebrine disease.

Besides, a proposal to import 200 M.Tonnes of raw silk is also under consideration.

**Newsitem Greater Vigilance Sought in Insurance, Banks**

2519. KUMARI DIPIKA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Greater Vigilance sought in insurance, banks" appearing in the Economic Times dated October 9, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof, and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Central Vigilance Commission takes periodic reviews of the Vigilance activities of the insurance companies/public sector banks and gives suggestions/advice from time to time. The vigilance activities of these institutions are monitored and reviewed in the respective institutions, Central Vigilance Commission and the Government. Each of these institutions has a Vigilance Deptt. headed by the Chief Vigilance Officer. The Annual Action Plan on anti corruption measures is also formulated in these institutions in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel. Their Action Plan is constantly monitored by the Finance Min-